

REMARKS

Claims 11 – 14, 16 – 23, 25 – 29, and 55 – 63 remain in the present application. Claims 11, 16 – 19, 21, 23, 25 – 27, and 29 have been amended. Claims 1 – 10, 15, 24, 30 – 54, and 64 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 – 10, 34 – 41, 53, 54, and 64 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. These claims have been cancelled.

The Examiner states that the interference of claims 44 – 52 and 55 – 63 has not been initiated as claims 44 – 52 are not patentable. Claims 44 – 52 have been cancelled and claims 55 – 63 have been allowed. The interference should now be initiated.

Claims 15 – 19, 21, 24, 25 – 27, and 29 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. This is acknowledged and appreciated by the applicants, whereby the respective base claims have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter.

The allowance of claims 55 – 63 is hereby recognized and appreciated.

Claims 11 – 13, 20, and 22 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by Willmann et al.. Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now cancelled claim 15, which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, independent claim 11 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 12, 13, 20, and 22, should also now be in condition for allowance as depending from an allowable independent claim 11. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 11 – 13, 20, and 22 are respectfully requested.

Claim 14 stands rejected as being allegedly unpatentable over Willmann et al. in view of Kuriyama et al.. Claim 14 should also now be in condition for allowance as depending from an allowable independent claim 11. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claim 14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 23 and 28 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by Buchner et al.. Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now cancelled claim 24, which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, independent claim 23 should now be in condition for allowance. Claim 28 should also now be in condition for allowance as depending from an allowable independent claim 23. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 23 and 28 are respectfully requested.

Claims 30 and 32 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by Leonida et al.. Claims 30 and 32 have been cancelled.

Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by Ward. Claims 30 and 31 have been cancelled.

Claims 30 and 33 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by S.H. McKnight. Claims 30 and 33 have been cancelled.

Claims 44, 46 – 50, and 52 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by Hodko et al.. Claims 44, 46 – 50, and 52 have been cancelled.

Claim 45 stands rejected as being allegedly unpatentable over Hodko et al.. Claim 45 has been cancelled.

Claim 51 stands rejected as being allegedly unpatentable over Hodko et al.. Claim 51 has been cancelled.

Accordingly, as the cited references in the Office Action neither anticipate nor render obvious that which the applicant deems to be the invention, it is respectfully requested that claims 11 – 14, 16 – 23, 25 – 29, and 55 – 63 be passed to issue.

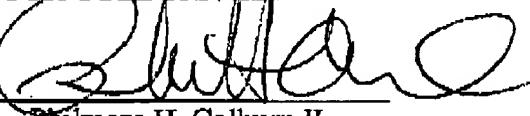
It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

MOLTER ET AL.

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